

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7539

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 4942

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SUBJ: YUGOSLAV PRESS REACTS TO NYTIMES 7/26 NEWS ANALYSIS

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF POLITIKA JUL 28 PAGE
TWO STORY OF NEW YORK COR
T AONDENT JURIJ GUSTINCIC
ENTITLED "STRANGE STATEMENTS BY U.S. AMBASSADOR".
BEGIN TEXT

NEW YORK, JULY 27 - ALL THOSE NUMEROUS AMERICANS
WHO ARE ACQUAINTED WITH GOOD ECONOMIC, CULTURAL,
SOCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
YUGOSLAVIA WERE SURPRISED AT THE VEHEMENT NATURE
OF UNUSUAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY THE
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE, LAWRENCE
SILBERMAN, IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELEASE OF THE
FORMER YUGOSLAV AND, AT PRESENT, AMERICAN
CITIZEN LASZLO TOTH.

THE SURPRISE IS ALL THE GREATER BECAUSE POLITICAL
RELATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN INTENSIVE DURING RECENT
YEARS, IN SPITE OF ALL DIFFERENCES AND
DIVERGENCIES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND YUGOSLAV FOR-
EIGN POLICIES, AS IS TESTIFIED TO BY FREQUENT
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EXCHANGES OF VISITS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, AND

EVEN OFFICIAL VISITS BY DELEGATIONS FROM OUR
VARIOUS REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE AMERICAN PRESS HAS GIVEN FULL PUBLICITY TO
THE WHOLE EPISODE BY PUBLISHING PICTURES, NOT
ONLY OF LASZLO TOTH, BUT ALSO, AND ABOVE ALL, OF
THE AMBASSADOR, AND YESTERDAY'S "CHRISTIAN
SCIENCE MONITOR", A PAPER OTHERWISE WELL KNOWN
FOR GIVING OBJECTIVE REVIEWS ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA,
PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AMBASSADOR IN
BELGRADE, SUCH AS PLEASES US."

"THE NEW YORK TIMES" PUBLISHES AN "ANALYSIS"
BY ITS CORRESPONDENT FROM BELGRADE MALCOLM
BROWNE: AN ANALYSIS WHICH WE MUST ESPECIALLY
STRESS, BECAUSE IT THROWS TRUE LIGHT ON THE
VERY BROAD, OBVIOUSLY "PRINCIPLED" BACKGROUND
OF OFFICIAL AMERICAN ATTACKS.

NOTHING POSITIVE

THE WRITER OF THESE LINES HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED
THAT CRITICISMS OF FELLOW JOURNALISTS MUST,
IF POSSIBLE, BE AVOIDED. BUT CONSIDERING THE
CHARACTER OF MALCOLM BROWNE'S WRITINGS, IT
IS, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, NECESSARY TO DRAW THE
ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC TO THE FACT THAT THE
ABOVE-MENTIONED CORRESPONDENT, DURING HIS STAY
OF SEVERAL YEARS IN YUGOSLAVIA, HAS FOUND NOT A
SINGLE POSITIVE DETAIL, NOT ONLY WHEN HE SPEAKS
ABOUT PEOPLE OR ABOUT POLITICAL AFFAIRS, BUT
ALSO ABOUT NATURE.

NEWSPAPERS HAVE SPOKEN AT LENGTH AND IN GREAT
DETAIL ABOUT THE CASE OF TOTH WHO, AS THEY
WRITE, WAS SENTENCED BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC
ESPIONAGE, AND WAS RELEASED AFTER A LENGTHY
PERIOD OF AMERICAN PROTESTS BECAUSE, ALLEGEDLY,
THE GUILT WAS NOT PROVED.

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AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN IS A LAWYER, ALTHOUGH NOT
A DIPLOMAT BY PROFESSION. HE IS CERTAINLY WELL
ACQUAINTED WITH THE PRACTICE APPLIED IN
CONNECTION WITH INTER-STATE AGREEMENTS ON
RELEASE OF PERSONS SENTENCED ON CHARGES OF
ESPIONAGE, WHEN THAT IS DONE, THE MATTER IS
SHELVED, AND NO "POST FACTUM" POLITICAL ACTIONS
ARE MADE OF THAT.

OBSERVERS, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN CHOSE PRECISELY THAT LATTER COURSE. TRUE, HE ACCUSED HIS OWN MINISTRY THAT IT HAD BEEN "CURBING" HIM IN HIS STRUGGLE FOR TOTH, AND THAT HE HAD YET HAD TO PROVE THAT PRESSURE AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA WAS "WORTH WHILE." ON THE BASIS OF HIS STATEMENTS, AND ESPECIALLY THIS MORNING'S "ANALYSIS" IN THE "NEW YORK TIMES", IT BECOMES IMMEDIATELY CLEAR THAT THE "TOTH CASE" IS ONLY AN EXCUSE, AND THAT A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE INDEPENDENT, THE NON-ALIGNED POLICY OF YUGOSLAVIA IS IN QUESTION HERE.

THAT THERE ARE NO UNBRIDGEABLE DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND THE MINISTRY (THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE) CAN BE SEEN FROM STATEMENTS IN WASHINGTON THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS REJECTING "ONLY" SILBERMAN'S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIS HOME INSTITUTION. IN OTHER WORDS, THE STATEMENT DOES NOT SEEM TO AGREE WITH THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE AMBASSADOR.

AND THAT ATTITUDE IS (LET US QUOTE) THAT "MANY ASPECTS OF YUGOSLAV POLICY ARE CLASHING WITH INTERESTS AND VALUES OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT THIS ALWAYS HAS AN EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS."

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THE AMBASSADOR IS EXCLUSIVELY SPEAKING ABOUT INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY, AND NOT ABOUT INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES.

"THE "NEW YORK TIMES" IS NOW ADDING TO THIS A SERIES OF STATEMENTS BY ANONYMOUS HIGH-RANKING FUNCTIONARIES OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO WHICH YUGOSLAVIA IS NEITHER MORE NOR LESS THAN "THE GREATEST HOOLIGAN" IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, THAT IT IS FOR EVER MENTIONING THE UNITED STATES IN CONNECTION WITH NEO-COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM, THAT IT IS ANGRY WHEN THE AMERICAN AND ITALIAN FLEETS CARRY OUT MANEUVRRES IN THE VICINITY OF ITS FRONTIERS (THAT HAPPENED AT THE MOMENT OF A MOMENTARY SHARPENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ROME AND BELGRADE, WHICH HAS BEEN OVERCOME), AND THAT "CERTAIN AMERICAN FUNCTIONARIES ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE DISTRUSTFUL OF FRIENDSHIP" WITH YUGOSLAVIA, BECAUSE IN ADDITION TO AN "UNPLEASANT ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, THEY DO NOT LIKE THE COURSE OF ITS INTERNAL POLICY," THAT IS, ALLEGED VIOLATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF HUMAN FREEDOMS.

THUS, IT IS ADMITTED, EXPLICITLY AND WITHOUT ANY BEATING ABOUT THE BUSH, THAT THE FIERCENESS OF THE ATTACK BY AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE IS EXPLAINED ON THE GROUNDS OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE COURSE OF YUGOSLAV POLICY, ABOVE ALL, ITS NONALIGNMENT WHICH IS OTHERWISE REFERRED TO IN OFFICIAL AMERICAN AND YUGOSLAV DOCUMENTS AND STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD AS AN ASPECT WHICH AMERICA IS SUPPORTING.

DISSATISFACTION WITH NONALIGNEMENT

AT THE EAST RIVER, WHERE THE WHOLE CAUSE IS AROUSING GREAT ATTENTION, THE FOLLOWING REMARK HAS BEEN HEARD IMMEDIATELY: "THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ATTACK AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA BECAUSE OF THE CONFERENCE OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES IN COLOMBO." THOSE DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE NOT

FORGOTTEN YESTERDAY' DAY, RECALL THAT A SIMILAR ATTACK ALSO CAME ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AT THE TIME OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE OF THE NONALIGNED IN 1961.

SUBMITTING HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE POST OF REPRESENTATIVE IN THE UNITED NATIONS, AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN (WHO IS NOW COMING FORWARD EVERYWHERE AS A RIGHTIST DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE, WITH A NATIONALISTIC ORIENTATION, IN THE ELECTIONS FOR THE SENATE) ALSO ACCUSED THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HAMPERING HIS CRITICISMS OF THE "THIRD WORLD," ALTHOUGH HE HAD PROVED THAT PRESSURE AGAINST THE "THIRD WORLD" WAS WORTHWHILE.

IN FACT, MOYNIHAN'S STATEMENTS DID NOT DIFFER COMPLETELY FROM THE MORE POLITE STATEMENTS BY HENRY KISSINGER. IS THE SITUATION NOW ANY DIFFERENT?

NEUROSIS ON THE EVE OF COLOMBO
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SEVERAL DAYS AGO, THE HEAD OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY SPOKE IN SEATTLE. THE SPEECH WAS HELD IN DEAD SILENCE, AND IT WAS ONLY ONCE THAT APPLAUSE RESOUNDED IN THE HALL, THAT WAS WHEN HE CRITICIZED THE "THIRD WORLD" AND THE UNITED NATIONS. THAT IS THE PRESENT STATE OF MIND OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, ONE SECTION OF WHICH HAS ISOLATIONIST INCLINATIONS.

THE CONCLUSION WHICH SEEMS TO BE IMPOSING ITSELF IS THAT THE PERHAPS MADE USE OF A METHOD WHICH IS NOT APPROVED BY ALL IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THAT THERE REALLY EXIST DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS, BUT THAT HE IS COMING FORWARD IN KEEPING WITH THE GENERAL AMERICAN NEUROSIS ON THE EVE OF COLOMBO.

AT THE REGULAR PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY, AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ASKED THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN WHETHER THERE EXISTED AN AGREED UPON ATTITUDE IN THIS CASE, AND WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE LIKELY TO BE SUBJECTED TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE BECAUSE OF HIS PUBLIC CRITICISMS OF HIS OWN INSTITUTION. THE ANSWER WAS THAT IN THE CASE OF TOTH AMERICA

HAD CARRIED OUT A "WELL-THOUGHT-OUT STRATEGY,"
THAT NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION WAS CONTEMPLATED,
AND THAT "STATE SECRETARY (KISSINGER) HAS FULL
CONFIDENCE IN AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN."

A SIMILAR CONFIDENCE WAS ALSO EXPRESSED IN
AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN ON THE EVE OF HIS
RESIGNATION.

HERE NO DOUBTS ARE EXPRESSED THAT AMERICAN-
YUGOSLAV RELATIONS ARE TOO MUCH DEVELOPED
AND EXPANDED TO BE BURIED BY NERVOUS
STATEMENTS OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONARIES, BUT IT
IS BEING NOTED THAT THE "TOTH CASE" IS ONLY A
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"TRIFLE" IN WHAT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE
AMERICAN PUBLIC. END TEXT.
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